WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1   1.   A method comprising:

2   determining the node ID information of a second node

3   device of a multi-node computer system; and

4   storing the node ID information of the second node device

5   on a storage device located on a first node device of the

6   multi-node computer system;

7   wherein the first node device is connected to the second

8   node device, and the second node device includes a storage

9   device containing node ID information for a third node device

10   connected to the second node device.

1   2.   The method of claim 1 further comprising:

2   retrieving, from the storage device of the second node

3   device, the node ID information for the third node device.

1   3.   The method of claim 2 further comprising:

2   storing the node ID information for the third node device

3   on the storage device located on the first node device;

4   wherein the third node device includes a storage device

5   containing node ID information for a fourth node device

6   connected to the third node device.

1   4.   The method of claim 3 further comprising:

2   retrieving, from the storage device of the third node

3   device, the node ID information for the fourth node device.

1   5.   The method of claim 4 further comprising:

2   storing the node ID information for the fourth node

3   device on the storage device located on the first node device;

4   wherein the fourth node device includes a storage device

5   containing node ID information for a fifth node device

6   connected to the fourth node device.

1   6.   The method of claim 1 wherein the node ID information is

2   specified on a node ID specification device located on the

3   second node device.

1   7.   The method of claim 6 wherein said determining the node

2   ID information includes retrieving the node ID information

3   from the node ID specification device of the second node

4   device.

1   8.   The method of claim 6 wherein said determining the node

2   ID information includes transmitting the node ID information

3   stored on the node ID specification device to the first node

4   device.

1   9.   A method comprising:

2   determining node ID information of a first node device of

3   a multi-node computer system; and

4   storing the node ID information on a storage device

5   located on a second node device of the multi-node computer

6   system, wherein the second node device is connected to the

7   first node device.

1   10. The method of claim 9 further comprising:

2   allowing a third node device of the multi-node computer

3   system to access the node ID information stored on the storage

4   device of the second node device.

1   11   The method of claim 9 wherein the node ID information is

2   specified on a node ID specification device located on the

3   first node device.

1   12. The method of claim 11 wherein the node ID specification

2   device is one or more jumper pins.

1   13. The method of claim 11 wherein the node ID specification

2   device is one or more DIP switches.

1   14. The method of claim 11 wherein the node ID specification

2   device is a read-only memory.

1   15. The method of claim 11 wherein said determining the node

2   ID information includes retrieving the node ID information

3   from the node ID specification device of the first node

4   device.

1   16.   The method of claim 11 wherein said determining the node

2   ID information includes transmitting the node ID information

3   stored on the node ID specification device to the second node

4   device.

1   17.   A computer program product residing on a computer

2   readable medium having instructions stored thereon which, when

3   executed by the processor, cause that processor to:

4   determine the node ID information of a second node

5   device of a multi-node computer system; and

6   store the node ID information of the second node

7   device on a storage device located on a first node device

8   of the multi-node computer system;

9   wherein the first node device is connected to the

10   second node device, and the second node device includes a

11   storage device containing node ID information for a third

12   node device connected to the second node device.

1   18.   The computer program product of claim 17 wherein said

2   computer readable medium is a read-only memory.

1   19.   The computer program product of claim 17 wherein said

2   computer readable medium is a hard disk drive.

1   20.   A processor and memory configured to:

2   determine the node ID information of a second node

3   device of a multi-node computer system; and

4   store said node ID information of said second node

5   device on a storage device located on a first node device

6   of said multi-node computer system;

7   wherein said first node device is connected to said

8   second node device, and said second node device includes

9   a storage device containing node ID information for a

10   third node device connected to said second node device.

1   21.   The processor and memory of claim 20 wherein said

2   processor and memory are incorporated into a network server.

1   22.   The processor and memory of claim 20 wherein said

2   processor and memory are incorporated into a workstation.

1   23.   A node ID discovery process comprising:

2   a node ID determination process for determining the

3   node ID information of a second node device of a multi-

4   node computer system; and

5   a node ID storage process for storing said node ID

6   information of said second node device on a storage

7   device located on a first node device of said multi-node

8   computer system;

9   wherein said first node device is connected to said

10   second node device, and said second node device includes

11   a storage device containing node ID information for a

12   third node device connected to said second node device.

1   24.   The node ID discovery process of claim 23 further

2   comprising:

3   a remote node device retrieval process for

4   retrieving, from said storage device of said second node

5   device, said node ID information for said third node

6   device;

7   wherein said node ID storage process stores said

8   node ID information for said third node device on said

9   storage device located on said first node device.

1   25.   A node ID discovery process comprising:

2   a node ID determination process for determining the

3   node ID information of a first node device of a multi-

4   node computer system; and

5   a node ID storage process for storing said node ID

6   information on a storage device located on a second node

7   device of said multi-node computer system;

8   wherein said second node device is connected to said

9   first node device.

1   26.   The node ID discovery process of claim 25 further

2   comprising:

3   an information access process for allowing a third

4   node device of said multi-node computer system to access

5   said node ID information stored on said storage device of

6   said second node device.

1   27. A node ID discovery system comprising:

2   a multi-port switch containing a plurality of ports;

3   a I/O hub controller connected to one of said ports;

4   a scalable node controller connected to one of said

5   ports;

6   at least one microprocessor connected to said

7   scalable node controller;

8   a node ID determination process for determining the

9   node ID information of said multi-port switch; and

10   a node ID storage process for storing said node ID

11   information of said multi-port switch on a storage device

12   located on said scalable node controller;

13   wherein said multi-port switch includes a storage

14   device containing node ID information for said I/O hub

15   controller.

1   28. The node ID discovery system of claim 27 further

2   comprising:

3   a remote node device retrieval process for

4   retrieving, from said storage device of said multi-port

5   switch, said node ID information for said I/O hub

6   controller;

7   wherein said node ID storage process stores said

8   node ID information for said I/O hub controller on said

9   storage device located on said scalable node controller.

1   29. A node ID discovery system comprising:

2   a multi-port switch containing a plurality of ports;

3   a I/O hub controller connected to one of said ports;

4   a scalable node controller connected to one of said

5   ports;

6   at least one microprocessor connected to said

7   scalable node controller;

8   a node ID determination process for determining the

9   node ID information of said I/O hub controller; and

10   a node ID storage process for storing said node ID

11   information of said I/O hub controller on a storage

12   device located on said multi-port switch.

1   30. The node ID discovery system of claim 29 further

2   comprising:

3   an information access process for allowing a

4   scalable node controller to access said node ID

5   information stored on said storage device of said multi-

6   port switch.